

Norton Company Envelopes: Some Comments

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I noticed a request in the October, 1994 issue from Harry Rickard wondering if anyone had outgoing mail from the Norton Company and speculated on why some many covers exist which are addressed to that company. Having at least part of the answer, I am responding to that note.

The Purchasing Agent for the Norton Company and thus the recipient of much of the mail for that firm for several decades was a dedicated philatelist name Marcus White. I am not sure how long White was able to carry home mail to his home. However, it seems to have been for roughly 30 years judging from the postal cards I have seen which are addressed "Attention Marcus White, Purchasing Agent." I know that Marcus White's chief love was U.S. Postal Stationary and that at his death his vast accumulation of covers was divided among three

dealers while his extensive literature collection was donated to the Cardinal Spellman Museum.

Reg Morris, President of the Machine Cancel Society and the author or co-author of many works dealing with machine cancels, told me that one of these three dealers allowed him to go through his third of the accumulation looking for machine cancels. This third literally took up an entire garage with the cards and envelopes stacked from the floor to over his head and he is not a short individual. According to Reg, he was literally locked into the garage and worked all night pulling out covers at a nickel each.

I wish that I knew the names of the three dealers and I wish even more that they were still willing to sell covers at a nickel each. I would buy a ton at that price. But in any event it helps us know why there are so many covers from this one company and it makes us glad that someone saved this "junk" for years before people realized that there was "philatelic gold on them there covers."